IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Specification at page 2, lines 18-21 as follows:

An improved platen design is provided for a C-frame press whereby an un-stiffened paten column connected in series to the tie rod; therefore, the stiffness of the tie rod is reduced. The unique design improves the fatigue strength of the tie rod by moving the reinforcing webs away from the column and directly onto the platen.

Please amend the Specification at page 4, lines 8-15 as follows:

As shown in Figures 5-7, the platen member 10 has a unique configuration that improves fatigue strength of the tie rod 30. The unique design improves the fatigue strength of the tie rod 30 by moving the reinforcing webs 14 and lateral stiffeners 16 away from the platen column 12 and directly onto the platen main body portion 11.

From the foregoing description, it is clear that the present invention provides a platen design where the reinforcing web members 14, 16 are disconnected from the platen column 12. The reinforcing web members 14, 16 are moved to the platen ~~base~~ main body portion 11 and away from the platen column 12.